

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

## Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

### JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 4 18 June 2008, 1600 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

#### SUMMARY

There are currently four confirmed wildfires in VA with ***US Forest Service investigating possible fifth wildfire on Caldwell Mountain.*** Poor Mountain Fire in Montgomery County was threatening multiple communication tower sites on 12 June ***is now 100% contained;*** ***South 1 Fire***, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Fire in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake ***is 23% contained;*** ***Hot Fire***, Richardson Knob, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties ***is 100% contained;*** ***Landfill Fire***, North Mountain, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County ***is small and contained.*** The concern at this time is the possibility of new wildfires appearing over the next several days due to lightning strikes. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service are coordinating to conduct aerial observations flights later this week.

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation. Incident Management Cadre is on alert.

#### WEATHER FORECAST

***Wednesday, 18 June: Partly to mostly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening across areas of Northwest, Southeast and Northern VA; some storms could produce gusty winds and small hail; daytime highs mid 70's to mid 80's with overnight lows upper 40's to upper 50's; west-northwest winds 5-10 MPH with 10-20 MPH across Northwest and Northern VA.***

***Thursday, 19 June: Partly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening across Northwest and Northern VA; daytime highs mid 70's to low 80's with overnight lows mid 50's to mid 60's; west-northwest winds 5-10 MPH becoming light and variable.***

#### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports that the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County has burned approximately 250 acres and is projected to burn approximately 890 acres after burning operations are completed. VDOF reports approximately 20 personnel to include local fire department remain on scene. Lightning is the probable cause of the fire. ***The fire is 100% contained with 100% control projected by Thursday, 19 June. Rain has aided fire suppression on the low intensity fire and it has increased the safety factor and impacted burn out operations. Burn out operations have been delayed and will be conducted once weather permits.***

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned ***2,712*** acres. A piece of construction equipment that caught fire is the probable cause of the fire. Area communities are affected by smoke, but no homes are in danger at this time. The fire is being managed by a Southern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team. ***The fire is 23% contained and 1 July is the projected date for containment.*** There are about ***369*** personnel on site ***to include 6 from the VA Department of Forestry*** along with personnel

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and resources from Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, **Bureau of Indian Affairs, VA Department of Emergency Management**, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department and City of Suffolk Fire Department. **Ground resources are being supported by 5 helicopters, 2 fixed wing aircraft and 9 bulldozers.** A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 3,000 feet above the fire. **A second fire, 35 acres, caused by thunderstorms on 16 June, was located outside containment lines and 100% contained on 17 June.**

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is located on the northern end of Massanutten Mountain in rough, steep, rocky terrain and difficult to access which hampered containment efforts. The fire is estimated to have burned 200 acres **and is 100% contained and is scheduled to be marked under control at 1800 hours, 18 June;** recent rains have assisted ground firefighting operations and fire is currently exhibiting light fire behavior. **Currently, there are approximately 25 personnel on site conducting mop up operations and monitoring the fire.** Lightning is the probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reported a 10 acre fire burning on North Mountain in Botetourt County on 14 June. USFS is managing the fire and has named it the Landfill Fire and indicated it was probably caused by a lightning strike. USFS reported actual area burned is 4 acres in George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. Fire is located in steep, rough terrain and recent rains have caused the fire to exhibit light fire behavior. Fire has not been marked contained and is being monitored by 10 person USFS crew.

**US Forest Service (USFS) is investigating multiple reports of smoke on Caldwell Mountain in George Washington and Jefferson National Forest and advised they believe a possible wildfire was caused by a lightning strike.**

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** VDEM has created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”, and the Incident Management Cadre has been alerted. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness and monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** VDEM fulfilled request from Montgomery County Emergency Management for Local Support Services Trailer housed in VDEM Region 6 deployed to serve as Incident Command Post through Tuesday, 17 June. VDEM Region 6 Coordinator delivered and set the trailer up for operations on 13 June. **VDEM Region 6 Coordinator scheduled to pick trailer up on Friday, 20 June.**

VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 15 June for deployment of Sprint ERT for communications and cellular telephone support. Sprint ERT arrived on scene 0015 hours, 16 June.

**VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 16 June for deployment of Sprint IP Trailer for data support. Sprint IP Trailer arrived on scene and operational at 2145 hours, 16 June.**

**VDEM coordinated request from Incident Commander, South 1 Fire, through Suffolk Emergency Management for Civil Air Patrol overhead recon flights; Civil Air Patrol was unable to assist.**

**Local Support Services:** VDEM Region 6 Coordinator deployed the Local Support Services Trailer housed in Region 6 to Montgomery County **and is scheduled to pick trailer up on Friday, 20 June.**

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### PLANNING SECTION

**Situation/Documentation Unit:** Monitoring situation and issuing daily SPOT reports and situation reports on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Friday, 20 June 2008.***

### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Montgomery County declared a local emergency on 12 June at approximately 1050 hrs and has established the Incident Command Post at Eastern Montgomery High School in the Elliston section of the county.

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